

REMARKS

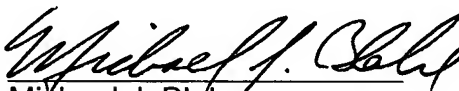
Upon entry of the attached amendment, Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17-26, 28-34, 36-43 and 45-53 are pending in this application. The amendments to the claims do not present new matter; support may be found generally in the specification and, specifically, the claims as filed (including in the parent application).

The claims of parent application Serial No. 09/911,789 were subject to a Restriction and an Election of Species Requirement. A copy of that requirement may be found in the above-identified parent case. The amendments to the claims herein have been made in an effort to expedite prosecution, and in light of the Restriction Requirement in the parent case and co-pending divisional cases having Serial Numbers 10/719,268, 10/719,883, and 10/719,427.

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in patentable form. Action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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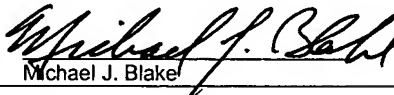
  
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Dec. 12, 2003  
Date

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

"EXPRESS MAIL " Mailing Label No.: ER786766881US

Date of Deposit: December 12, 2003

I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment and the Documents referred to as being enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop Divisional Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Michael J. Blake